

A
FLEETWAY
LIBRARY

WAR
PICTURE
LIBRARY
No 182
1/-

DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND



4

ALL-ACTION ISSUES EVERY MONTH★ No. 93 **DEADLINE AT DAWN**

It was a test of endurance, a miracle of survival !

★ No. 94 **STALK-AND KILL**

Both hunter and hunted have a sixth sense—an instinct for danger!

★ No. 95 **ON GUARD**

He was always there when danger threatened . . .

★ No. 96 **THE FIRE-EATERS**

They were swashbuckling Lancers . . . though their steeds were of steel.

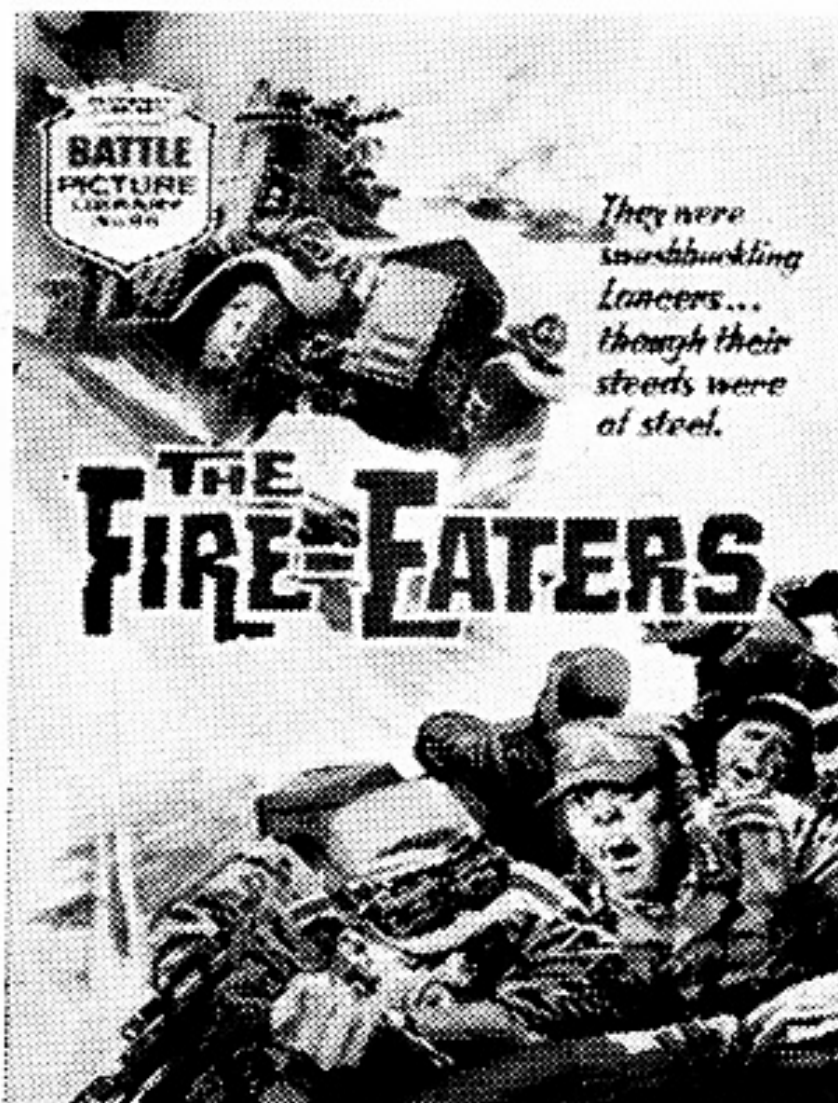
BATTLE PICTURE LIBRARY

On Sale

Monday 18th Feb.

MAKE SURE

*Order your copies
NOW!*



DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND

A GERMAN MORTAR COUGHED THICKLY A BOMB ARCHED HIGH. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1940 THAT LERVIK HAD HEARD A SHOT FIRED IN ANGER...



Chapter 1. Dark Landing

LEIRVIK, IN NAZI-OCCUPIED NORWAY... A LITTLE TOWN UNHEARD OF TWO YEARS AGO, BUT NOW THE SITE OF INSTALLATIONS VITAL TO THE GERMAN WAR-EFFORT...

THIS SHOULD BE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER. THE NIGHT OF THE SIXTH OF APRIL, NINETEEN-FORTY-TWO. NO, IT IS LONG PAST MIDNIGHT. THE DAWN CAN'T BE FAR OFF. THE DATE IS THE SEVENTH.



OUT TO SEA, EMERGING FROM A SMOKE-SCREEN LAID BY ESCORT SHIPS, BRITISH LANDING-CRAFT-PERSONNEL FROM A PARENT-VESSEL WERE FLOUGHING TOWARDS THE SHORE.

ANY MINUTE NOW, BOYS! GET SET!



Devil's Playground


IN THOSE LANDING-CRAFT WERE MEN OF 5 TROOP, NUMBER 14/40 COMMANDO. NERVES TIGHT WITH TENSION, THEY WERE THE MEN AT THE 'SHARP END'—THE MEN WHO WERE SPEARHEADING THE RAID...



WHOOSH!
THAT WAS
CLOSE, AND NO
MISTAKE!

YOU
CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN,
CAPTAIN
BARRY!

CLOSE, SURE ENOUGH—AND ONLY THE OPENING GAMBIT IN A SAVAGE SALUTATION... THE PRELUDE TO A VOLLEY OF BOMBS FROM A WHOLE BATTERY OF HEAVY MORTARS...



THE JERRIES
ARE WARMING UP,
SIR. WELL, NOBODY
THOUGHT THIS WAS
GOING TO BE
A PICNIC.

WAIT TILL
THE GUNS OF
THE ESCORT-SHIP
CRACK DOWN. THEY'LL
KNOCK THE STEAM
OUT OF THEM!

Devil's Playground


A COUPLE OF
BRITISH DESTROYERS
NOSED THROUGH
THE SMOKE-SCREEN
AND OPENED FIRE ON
THE GERMAN DEFENCES.



...AND ON THE
RECEIVING-END...




THE NAZIS SUSTAINED CASUALTIES,
BUT THAT MORTAR BATTERY WAS
NOT SILENCED COMPLETELY...



IT SEEMS
THEY ARE
GOOD MARKSMEN,
THE BRITISH NAVAL
GUNNERS... BUT ARE
THEY GOOD ENOUGH?
THE GERMANS ARE
SO WELL DUG-IN

ODDLY ENOUGH, NOW THAT THE HEAT WAS ON, THE
COMMANDOS WERE NO LONGER KEYED UP. THE
STRAIN HAD EBBED FROM THEIR FACES...



RAMPS
DOWN, BOYS!
STAND BY!

Devil's Playground

FIRST ASHORE WAS CAPTAIN MIKE BARRY, AND RIGHTLY SO. IT WAS HIS PRIVILEGE, AS COMMANDER OF B TROOP... IF YOU COULD CALL IT A "PRIVILEGE".

COME ON, LADS!
WE'RE PRACTICALLY HOME AND DRY!



A SPANDAUF STAMMERED A HOT WELCOME AT CLOSE RANGE. MIKE BARRY LATCHED ON TO IT - LET RIP AT THE ROOT-SOURCE OF THE TRACER IT WAS POURING OUT...



THE MEN WHO HAD SHARED
MIKE'S L.C.P. SWARMED UP
THE BEACH AFTER HIM...

COME ON,
HURRY IT UP,
LADS! GET
STUCK IN!



THERE WERE GROUPS OF
NAZIS ALL ALONG THE
STRIP OF BEACH. THE
COMMANDOS MOVED UP
AND PITCHED IN!



DONNER
UND BLITZEN!
RUN FOR IT,
COMRADES!

THE FORESHORE WAS CLEARED OF THE ENEMY IN NO TIME. MIKE WAS REORGANISING HIS MEN WHEN A LANDING CRAFT DISGORGED THE UNIT'S COMMANDING OFFICER AND H.Q. GROUP...

WHAT'S THE SITUATION, BARRY?



WELL, SIR, WE'VE MOPPED UP THE BEACH...

IF THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SALUTE, I DON'T THINK MUCH OF IT! SLOPPY, THAT'S WHAT IT IS! NOT THE TIME TO REPRIMAND HIM NOW, BUT I'LL GIVE HIM A WIGGING LATER.



"OLD BLOOD AND THUNDER" THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED DELANEY - LATE OF THE GUARDS, LIKE FOUR-FIFTHS OF HIS OFFICERS AND MEN...



EH? WHAT'S THAT? MOPPED UP THE BEACH? YOU HAVE, HAVE YOU? THEN WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE? GET YOUR MISFITS TOGETHER AND STRIKE INLAND!

MISFITS! MIKE'S FACE BURNED...

THIS HALF-COLONEL WOULD NEVER GIVE ME OR ANY OF MY LADS CREDIT FOR BEING GOOD SOLDIERS! WE'RE NOT EX-GUARDSMEN!



WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? WHEN I GIVE AN ORDER I EXPECT IT TO BE OBEYED - INSTANTLY!

MIKE SPREAD HIS MEN OUT IN A SKIRMISH-LINE - THRUST EASTWARDS WITH THEM. DELANEY WATCHED THEM GO...

BAH! NO CONFIDENCE IN ANY OFFICER WHO CALLS HIS MEN 'LADS' OR 'BOYS.' GIVE ME CHAPS WHO'VE SERVED IN THE GUARDS! STILL, FIVE TROOP CAN PROBE THE WAY.



Devil's Playground

NUMBER 1 TROOP LANDED—JUST AS THE NAZIS SHOWED THEIR TEETH AGAIN AND GOUGED THE BEACH WITH BOMBS.

YOU MEN THERE! DO YOU WANT TO GET YOURSELVES KILLED? GET DOWN AND DIG IN! MINIMUM OF FIVE-YARD INTERVALS.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! HE MAKES THE MEN GO TO GROUND, BUT TAKES A CONFOUNDED STROLL HIMSELF! AS HIS ADJUTANT, WHAT CAN I DO BUT SAUNTER AROUND WITH HIM?

"OLD BLOOD AND THUNDER" HAD HIS FAILINGS, BUT LACK OF NERVE WAS NOT ONE OF THEM...

I KNEW IT! HE ASKED FOR IT—AND BY GOLLY, HE'S GOT IT! SO HAVE I!



HURLED DOWN BY THE BLAST OF THE MORTAR. BUT MIRACULOUSLY UNHARMED COLONEL AND ADJUTANT GATHERED THEIR WITS. DELANEY CALLED OUT IN A PEPPERY MANNER...

YOU ALL RIGHT, ADJ?
WELL? WHERE'S YOUR
TONGUE? ANSWER ME,
MAN! ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

Y-Y-YES, SIR.
AT LEAST, I
THINK SO.

THE COLONEL CLIMBED TO HIS FEET-DUSTED
HIMSELF DOWN IRRITABLY. THEN HE SAW MIKE
BARRY APPROACHING, WITH A CIVILIAN...

COLONEL
DELANEY, HERE'S
A MAN WHO SAYS
HE HAS INFORMATION.
INFORMATION THAT
COULD BE USEFUL
TO US, HE THINKS.

Devil's Playground

THE NORWEGIAN CIVILIAN STOPPED. CLEARLY, HE DID NOT MEAN TO DRAW ANY NEARER WHILE THE BEACH WAS UNDER BOMBARDMENT.

HE SAYS HIS NAME'S LARS NILSEN, SIR. SPEAKS ENGLISH AFTER A FASHION. ACCORDING TO HIM, OUR BEST BET IS TO STRIKE NORTH-EAST VIA A BIG, EMPTY HOUSE THAT OVERLOOKS THE TOWN AND THE INSTALLATIONS THE GERMANS HAVE SET UP.



THE COLONEL WAS INTERESTED HE INTERROGATED NILSEN CLOSELY AND TURNED AT LENGTH TO MIKE AGAIN...

I GO... NO
LIKE STAY
HERE.

BARRY, REJOIN YOUR MEN AND TAKE THEM DIRECTLY TO THE HOUSE OUR HELPFUL NORWEGIAN HAS DESCRIBED. IF THE HUNS RUSH UP ANY TROOPS THERE, HOLD THE PLACE AT ALL COSTS. I'LL FOLLOW ON WHEN THE REST OF THE COMMANDO HAS LANDED.



D'YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO PIN SO MUCH FAITH ON A FELLOW WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT, SIR? AFTER ALL, HE COULD BE A QUISLING, SIR - A TRAITOR...

QUISLING, MY FOOT! I PRIDE MYSELF ON BEING A JUDGE OF CHARACTER, AND HE'S A PATRIOT, IF EVER I SAW ONE. SCARED STIFF OF BEING UNDER FIRE, YET READY TO RISK HIS SKIN TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE NAZIS.



ALL THE SAME, SIR, WOULDN'T A RECONNAISSANCE BE ADVISABLE - JUST AS A CHECK?

BARRY, THAT HOUSE IS OBVIOUSLY A KEY-POINT IN ENEMY HANDS, IT COULD SPELL THE FAILURE OF OUR MISSION. I WANT IT - AND I WANT IT QUICK!



MIKE SWUNG ROUND WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD AND MADE TRACKS FOR WHERE HE HAD LEFT HIS MEN. OUT OF THE TAIL OF HIS EYE, HE SAW NILSEN SCURRYING OFF...

IS HE GENUINE, OR ISN'T HE? I'D LIKE TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER...



BUT HE DID NOT KNOW... NOR DID HE KNOW THAT FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS THE ENIGMA WAS TO HAUNT HIM UNRELENTINGLY - WITH THE GHOSTS OF HALF-A-HUNDRED MEN.

Chapter 2. *First Light*

THERE WAS A PALLOR IN THE EASTERN SKY AS MIKE BARRY LED HIS TROOP FORWARD. THEY MADE OUT RISING GROUND AHEAD...

IT'S CRACK OF DAWN, SERGEANT-MAJOR.

IT'S NOT THE TRUE DAWN, CAPTAIN BARRY. THERE'S SUCH A THING AS A FALSE DAWN, REMEMBER.

A FALSE DAWN...THE INNOCENT PHRASE HAD AN OMINOUS RING. WOULD THE TRUE DAWN PROVE FALSE WHEN IT CAME—FALSE WITH THE SMEAR OF TREACHERY ON IT?

THERE'S THE PLACE THE NORWEGIAN DESCRIBED. BEYOND IT, THE LAND FALLS SHARPLY TO THE LITTLE TOWN OF LERVIK—AND THE INSTALLATIONS IT'S OUR JOB TO DESTROY.

ALL'S QUIET UP THERE, SIR. NOT A SIGN OF LIFE. IT'S EMPTY, ALL RIGHT. I'D LAY ODDS ON IT.

NOW IT WAS TRULY DAWN. THE BIG HOUSE STOOD OUT WITH SHARP CLARITY. MIKE SQUARED HIS SHOULDERS...

WHERE'S THE REST OF THE COMMANDO? WHAT D'YOU SUPPOSE THOSE PERISHING GUARDSMEN ARE DOING?

PROBABLY FORMIN' SQUARE, MATE. SAME AS THEY DID AT THE BATTLE O' WATERLOO.



ONE MORE STEP, AND THEN MIKE BARRY JERKED TO A HALT!

HOLD IT! BACK, EVERYBODY!

WHAT'S WRONG, SIR?



MIKE WAS NOT SURE IF ANYTHING WAS WRONG. HE ONLY KNEW HE DID NOT INTEND TO JEOPARDISE HIS MEN'S LIVES RECKLESSLY, WHATEVER AN EX-GUARDEE COLONEL MIGHT SAY...

I THOUGHT I GOT A SQUINT OF A JERRY IN ONE OF THE UPPER WINDOWS. I'M NOT RUNNING ANY RISKS. WE'LL CIRCLE ROUND SO WE CAN LOOK AT THAT PLACE FROM CLOSER AT HAND.

THE CAPTAIN PAUSED TO SEND BACK A RUNNER WITH A MESSAGE FOR THE UNIT'S COMMANDING OFFICER...

AND TELL THE CO. I'LL SEND UP A SIGNAL WITH MY VEREY-PISTOL IF I'M SATISFIED THE HOUSE IS REALLY EMPTY.

RIGHT, SIR!



THE RUNNER HURRIED BACK DOWN THE SLOPE. THE TROOP THEN MOVED DUE NORTH, THEN AGAIN EASTWARD VIA A GULLY. THEY WERE NOT EXPECTING ANY TROUBLE.

CHILLY, AINT IT?

MUST BE SOMEBODY WALKIN' OVER YOUR GRAVE, MATE.

COR! CHEERFUL COVE, AINT HE?



BUT TROUBLE WAS WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR THEM AT THE OTHER END OF THE GULLY...

NOT YET... NOT YET...



Devil's Playground

A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE COMMANDOS WERE WITHIN RANGE. THE HARSH VOICE OF THE NAZI OFFICER BROKE THE TENSE SILENCE...

FEUER!



A BLAST OF SMALL-ARMS' FIRE RIPPED FROM THE SOUTH RIM. A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE NORTH RIM CAME ALIVE WITH THE CLATTER OF RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS AS WELL.

GREAT GRIEF, SIR, YOU'VE WALKED US SMACK INTO A DEATH-TRAP!



Devil's Playground

19

IN THAT VICIOUS CROSSFIRE OF HOT LEAD,
THE COMMANDOS HAD NO CHANCE...

GIVE 'EM RAPID,
LADS, BUT PULL
BACK! PULL BACK!



GALLANTLY, BARRY'S MEN FOUGHT BACK,
BUT THE ENEMY WERE WELL-COVERED
AND COULD EASILY PICK OFF THE
KHAKI-CLAD FIGURES...

A RGH!
A RGH!



THERE SEEMED NO END TO THE SLAUGHTER. DESPERATELY, THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE THE HAIL OF DEATH...

A MASSACRE! A COMPLETE AND UTTER MASSACRE! IF A SINGLE ONE OF US GETS OUT OF THIS ALIVE, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE!




ONLY A HANDFUL OF B TROOP SURVIVED THAT SHAMBLE. MIKE WAS ONE OF THEM...

FIFTY MEN WIPED OUT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. WHY DIDN'T ONE OF THOSE BULLETS OR GRENADES HAVE MY NUMBER ON IT? HOW CAN I FACE UP TO...?

CAPTAIN BARRY!
CAPTAIN BARRY!






MIKE RECOGNISED THE RIFLEMAN HE HAD DETAILED AS RUNNER...



THE C.O. WANTS YOU DOWN ON THE BEACH RIGHT AWAY, SIR. FAIRLY BLEW HIS TOP, HE DID, AFTER I GAVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE. HE'S HOPPING MAD, SIR.



OLD BLOOD-AND-THUNDER WAS HOPPING MAD ALL RIGHT. HE RAGED AT MIKE BARRY WHEN THE CAPTAIN PRESENTED HIMSELF.



YOU THOUGHT YOU SAW A NAZI IN THE HOUSE! YOU WERENT POSITIVE, BUT YOU DECIDED TO REJECT MY PLAN! I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL THAT 'USING YOUR INITIATIVE' I'D CALL IT 'FAILING TO OBEY AN ORDER' - AND SO WOULD YOU IF YOU'D SERVED IN THE GUARDS!

FRESH FUEL WAS ADDED TO THE COLONEL'S WRATH BY A BUILD-UP OF THE ENEMY'S FIRE-POWER...

THE ENEMY HAVE MOVED HEAVY WEAPONS TO OVERLOOK THIS SECTOR! IF YOU'D TAKEN THAT HOUSE AS I DIRECTED, BARRY, YOU COULD HAVE RAKED THE HIGH GROUND AND DENIED IT TO THEM!



THE ODDS AGAINST THE COMMANDOS MOUNTED SWIFTLY. IT BECAME ALL TOO EVIDENT THAT THE FORCE MUST CUT ITS LOSSES OR FACE ANNIHILATION...

ADJ, I'M CALLING OFF THE OPERATION... NOTHING ELSE FOR IT. GET WORD TO THE OTHER TROOP-COMMANDERS!



THE WITHDRAWAL WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER MURDEROUS FIRE THAT INFLICTED FURTHER GRIEVOUS CASUALTIES...



THE SURVIVORS REGAINED THEIR PARENTSHIP. THEY WERE TAKEN ABOARD AND THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY WAS BEGUN...

THERE GO THE ENGLANDERS, HERR OBERST... LICKING THEIR WOUNDS - AND WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING ON THE CREDIT-SIDE OF THEIR LEDGER.

ACH, SO, MAJOR RHEINSDORF. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS A PITY SO MANY OF THEM GOT AWAY TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

OUT AT SEA, COLONEL DELANEY ANGRILY VOICED HIS THOUGHTS...

THE ENTIRE OPERATION AN OUT-AND-OUT FLOP, GENTLEMEN. A COSTLY ONE, AT THAT. AND WE ALL KNOW WHO TO THANK FOR IT!

BITTER GLANCES WERE DIRECTED AT A FIGURE STANDING APART. MIKE BARRY WAS TOO DEEPLY SUNK IN HIS OWN AGONISING THOUGHTS TO NOTICE THOSE GLANCES.

DID I SEE A GERMAN IN THAT HOUSE? IF SO, WAS THE PLACE PACKED WITH NAZIS LYING IN WAIT TO OBLITERATE THE WHOLE COMMANDO? I WISH I KNEW. I ONLY WISH I KNEW!

THAT QUESTION WAS STILL NAGGING AT HIM THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN, BACK IN ENGLAND, DELANEY SUMMONED HIM TO THE ORDERLY ROOM AT THE COMMANDO UNIT'S BASE...

BARRY I CONSIDER I'M SHOWING REMARKABLE FORBEARANCE IN GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO ASK FOR A POSTING. IF YOU'VE ANY SENSE AT ALL, YOU'LL ACCEPT MY OFFER.

MIKE WAS NOT SHOCKED BY THE COLONEL'S WORDS. HE HAD EXPECTED SUCH A SUGGESTION...

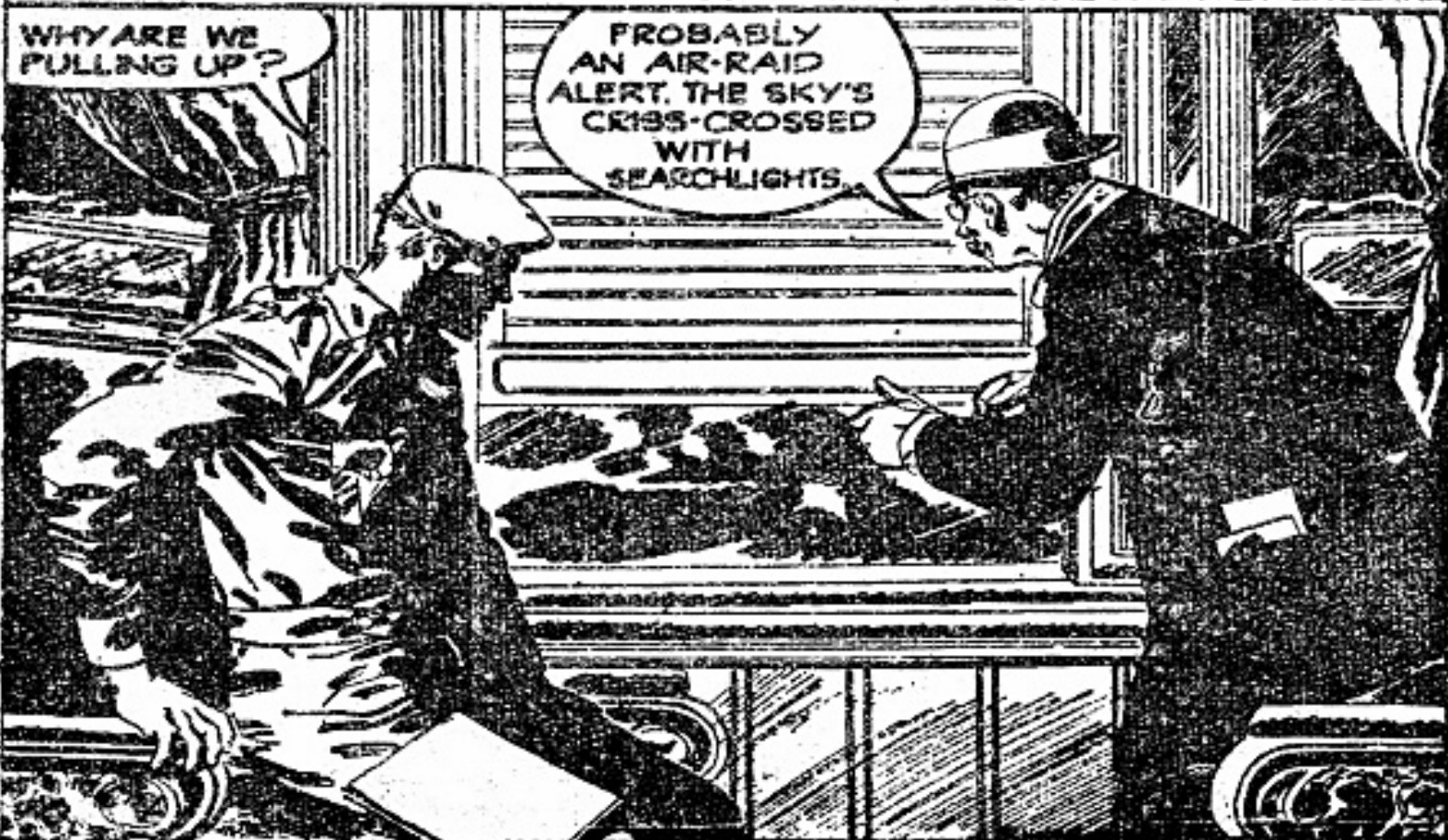
I SEE FROM YOUR DOCUMENTATION THAT YOU WERE STUDYING FOR A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING BEFORE YOU JOINED UP. MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO APPLY FOR A TRANSFER TO THE ROYAL ENGINEERS.



MIKE FOLLOWED LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DELANEY'S ADVICE AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS HE WAS ON HIS WAY BY TRAIN TO AN R.E. DEPOT IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

WHY ARE WE PULLING UP?

PROBABLY AN AIR-RAID ALERT. THE SKY'S CRISS-CROSSED WITH SEARCHLIGHTS.



Devil's Playground

THE TRAIN HALTED. FROM THE WINDOWS, ITS PASSENGERS HAD A GRANDSTAND VIEW OF A BLITZKRIEG BY LUFTWAFFE SQUADRONS.



ACK-ACK GUNS HURLED SHELLS INTO THE NIGHT-SKY. WEAVING THROUGH A STORM OF METAL, THE ENEMY RAIDERS UNLOADED THEIR DEADLY FREIGHT...



FROM NOW ON, THE CIVVIES ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE IN THE THICK OF THE WAR THAN I'LL BE. WHAT'S IN STORE FOR ME? A CUNNY BILLET IN SOME TRAINING-AREA I DARESAY. I'LL GO ROUND THE BEND WITH BOREDOM!

THE RAID ENDED, BUT THE TRAIN DID NOT MOVE. A SIGNALMAN EXPLAINED THE REASON AFTER RECEIVING A MESSAGE IN HIS CABIN...

WHY THE HOLD-UP NOW?

UNEXPLODED BOMB JUST OUTSIDE THE STATION. A SQUAD OF ROYAL ENGINEERS ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH IT. BLOWED IF I'D LIKE THEIR JOB.

A GLEAM OF INTEREST WAS AWAKENED IN MIKE'S EYE...

NOW THERE'S AN IDEA. I'LL VOLUNTEER FOR SPECIALISED TRAINING IN DEMOLITION. THAT WAY, I MIGHT HAVE ALL THE EXCITEMENT I WANT.



HE FOLLOWED UP THE NOTION. AND IN DUE COURSE WAS ASSIGNED TO A BOMB-DISPOSAL UNIT IN SURREY. SOME WEEKS LATER, LONDON HAD UNWELCOME VISITORS.

SOMEBODY'S FAIRLY COPPING IT, MULLEN.

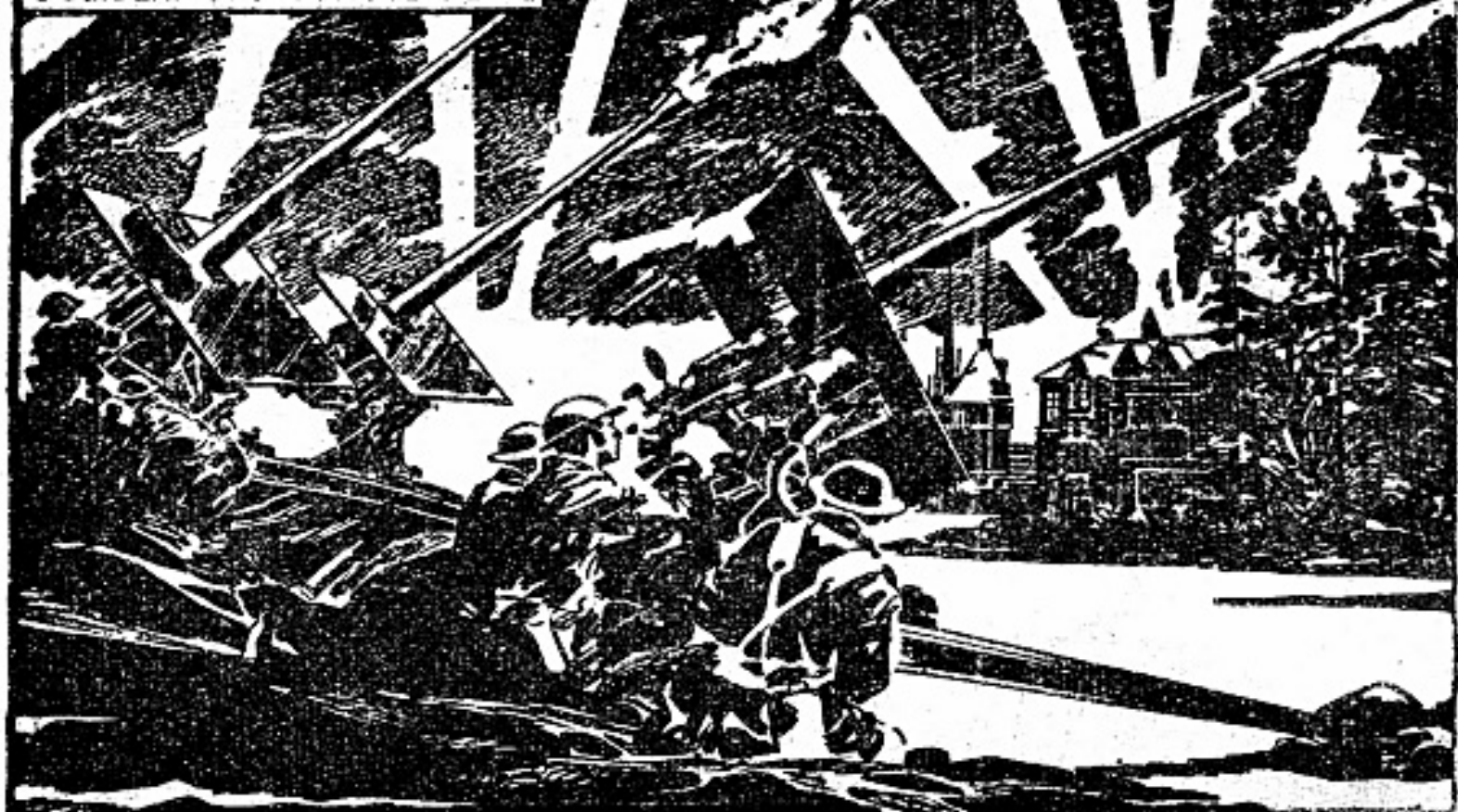
I RATHER FANCY IT'S THE WANDSWORTH AREA.



RICKY MULLEN WAS A RAKISH-LOOKING YOUNG LIEUTENANT. HE FAVOURED A JAZZY SILK SCARF IN PLACE OF A REGULATION KHAKI TIE. HE WOULD HAVE MADE OLD BLOOD-AND-THUNDER'S HAIR CURL!

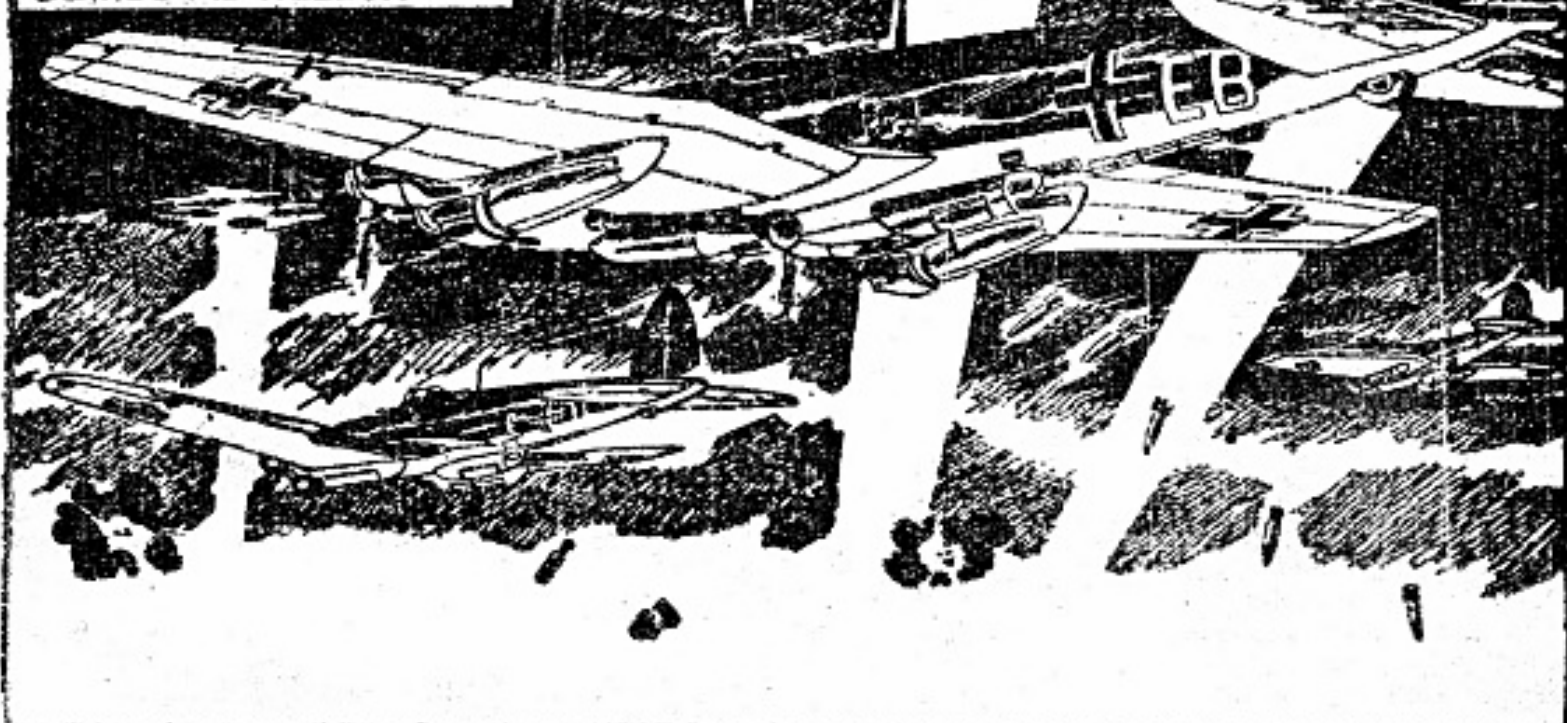
JERRY'S REALLY LAYING IT ON TONIGHT. I ALWAYS FIND IT RATHER FRUSTRATING NOT BEING ABLE TO FIGHT BACK. BUT OUR JOB STARTS WHEN THE RAID IS OVER.

MEANWHILE, ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES WERE HAMMERING AT THE FLOCK OF HEINKEL BOMBERS DRONING OVERHEAD.



BOMBS WERE RAINING DOWN CONTINUOUSLY - MAINLY INCENDIARIES, THOUGH THE LUFTWAFFE FORMATION WAS DUMPING HIGH-EXPLOSIVE BOMBS AS WELL...

BOMBS GONE, FLIEGER HAUPTMANN STEINER!



FIRES BLAZED UP FROM HOMES AND FACTORIES. GAPING HOLES APPEARED IN THE ORDERLY PATTERN OF SUBURBAN STREETS.

THE LONDONERS ARE TAKING HEAVY PUNISHMENT, FRANZ.


JAWOHL... AND WE ARE NOT! THEIR DEFENCE IS PATHETIC!





HIMMEL,
FRANZ! YOU
SPOKE TOO
SOON!

IT WAS BY NO MEANS A ONE-SIDED AFFAIR
THAT RAID. THREE HEINKELS WERE CLANGED
DOWN IN QUICK SUCCESSION. A BOMB
WAS JETTISONED FROM A FOURTH JUST
AFTER IT WAS HIT...




CRICKY! TALK
ABOUT A
NEAR MISS!

NEAR ENOUGH
TO BLOW US ALL
TO KINGDOM COME,
MATE... BUT IT
AIN'T GONE OFF!
GLORY BE,
IT'S A BUD!

Devil's Playground

AT DAYBREAK NEXT MORNING, MIKE BARRY AND RICKY MULLEN WENT TO INSPECT THE 'DUD' BOMB...



GET AT IT.
START DIGGING.
BUT FOR PETE'S
SAKE, MIND HOW
YOU GO!

THE BOMB HAD VIRTUALLY BURIED ITSELF.
IT WAS UNCOVERED BY THE SAPPERS, AND
AT THE SAME TIME SHORED-UP...



OKAY,
CHAPS, COLLECT
YOUR GEAR AND
HOP IT WHILE
CAPTAIN BARRY
AND I HAVE A
DECKO.

A MOMENT MORE, AND MIKE AND RICKY WERE MAKING A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION...

THIS ONE CALLS FOR KID GLOVES, AND THAT'S A FACT. IT'S NOT QUITE LIKE ANY BOMB I'VE EVER SEEN.

IT'S A MODIFIED VERSION OF ONE THAT WAS USED FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ON THE COURSE I'VE JUST ATTENDED. I THINK I CAN HANDLE IT. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BACK OFF AND LEAVE THIS TO ME?

RICKY DECLINED THE WELL-MEANT INVITATION. HE PREFERRED TO REMAIN AND STICK OUT HIS NECK, IN CASE HE WAS NEEDED.

CAN'T I GIVE YOU A HAND? ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE ME TO DO?

YES, CHUM, I'D LIKE YOU TO PASS DOWN THAT TOOL-KIT, AND I'D ALSO LIKE YOU TO BELT UP-BEFORE YOU MAKE ME EDGY WITH YOUR INFERNAL CHATTER.



THE LIEUTENANT OBEYED, ON BOTH COUNTS. HE SAT SILENT FOR NERVE-TORTURING MINUTES OF SUSPENSE, WHILE MIKE TRIED TO EXTRACT THE SENSITIVE DETONATOR...

MM! OLD BARRY SEEMS TO HAVE A NATURAL GIFT FOR THIS SORT OF JOB. IT'S A SHAKY DO- BUT HE DOESN'T TURN A HAIR!



IT WAS A LONG, DELICATE OPERATION, BUT AT LAST THE EX-COMMANDO GAVE A "THUMBS-UP" SIGN...



RIGHT! HER FANG'S BEEN DRAWN. WHISTLE UP THE LADS AND TELL 'EM SHE'S ALL THEIRS. THEY CAN WINCH HER AND TAKE HER AWAY.

NO DOUBT OF IT, MIKE POSSESSED A GENIUS FOR THE ROLE HE HAD CHOSEN. IN A MATTER OF WEEKS, HIS WORTH RECEIVED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION...

CAPTAIN BARRY, YOU'RE IMPROPERLY DRESSED.

IMPROPERLY DRESSED GUY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

JUST MY LITTLE JOKE, BARRY. YOU SHOULD BE WEARING A CROWN ON EACH SHOULDER... INSTEAD OF THREE PIPS. IN SHORT, YOU'RE NO LONGER A CAPTAIN. YOU'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO MAJOR!



MIKE WAS GRATIFIED BY THE NEWS OF HIS UP-GRADING. YET, LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS QUARTERS, HE WAS OPPRESSED BY A CHAIN OF SOMBRE THOUGHTS...

THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES. NOT SO LONG AGO I WAS RIGHT IN THE DOG-HOUSE. I WONDER IF I DESERVE TO WEAR A CROWN? MAYBE OLD BLOOD-AND-THUNDER WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHIN HIS RIGHTS IF HE'D HAD ME COURT-MARTIALLED...



THE MEMORY OF THAT DAWN ADVANCE FROM A NOENSIAN BEACH WAS STILL WITH HIM. THAT, AND THE FIFTY DEAD HE MOURNED AS COMRADES...

WAS I TO BLAME? WOULD THEY STILL BE ALIVE IF I HAD CARRIED OUT DELANEY'S ORDERS? I DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL EVER KNOW.



Chapter 3. Second Attempt

FATE HAS A HABIT OF PLAYING THE STRANGEST TRICKS ON A MAN. A MONTH LATER, MIKE LEARNED HE HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR A TRIP ACROSS THE NORTH SEA...



YOU SENT
FOR ME,
COLONEL
HENSON?

YOU'RE WANTED
FOR AN IMPORTANT
OPERATION IN NORWAY,
MAJOR. YOUR IMPRESSIVE
HANDLING OF EXPLOSIVE
MATERIALS HAS MADE
YOU FIRST CHOICE.

AS YOU'VE NO DOUBT
GUESSED, IT'S A
COMMANDO OP—
AGAINST TARGETS
WHICH HAVE DEFIED
ONE EARLIER ATTEMPT
AT DESTRUCTION,
IN APRIL LAST.

THESE
TARGETS
... WOULD
THEY BE AT
LERVIK,
SIR—AND
IS THE UNIT
CONCERNED
FOURTEEN-
FORTY
COMMANDO?

SO DO
I, SIR. SO
DO I! BY
HEAVENS, I'M
NEVER LIKELY
TO FORGET
IT...



THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE
OF IT, BARRY. FOURTEEN-FORTY
COMMANDO KNOWS THE GROUND...



NEXT DAY, MIKE LEFT FOR THE COMMANDO BASE WITH RICKY MULLEN AND TEN OTHER-RANK VOLUNTEERS...

I UNDERSTAND YOU KNOW THE MOB WE'RE GOING TO TIE UP WITH, MIKE. WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

MOSTLY EX-GUARDSMEN, RESIMENTAL, THROUGH AND THROUGH, ESPECIALLY THE C.O. FOR PETE'S SAKE, DON'T LET HIM HEAR YOU REFER TO HIS UNIT AS A 'MOB'!

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, IN A BIG MARQUEE THAT SERVED AS AN OFFICERS' MESS, MIKE RENEWED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DELANEY...

I'LL BE FRANK WITH YOU, BARRY. WHEN I KNEW YOU'D BEEN PICKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH US, I KICKED LIKE THE DEVIL...BUT MY PROTESTS WERE OVERRULED.



I'M WARNING YOU, BARRY, JUST THE SAME! IF YOU LET ME DOWN AGAIN BY GOING AGAINST ORDERS, I'LL MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO SEE YOU'RE DEPRIVED OF YOUR COMMISSION!



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, DELANEY STAMPED OFF...

AWAY! NOT EXACTLY A FRIENDLY TYPE.

NOT WHERE I'M CONCERNED. BUT THEN HE RECKONS HE HAS CAUSE TO BITE MY HEAD OFF. YOU DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES, RICKY, AND I DON'T FEEL DISPOSED TO TALK ABOUT THEM, IF YOU DON'T MIND!




Devil's Playground

THERE FOLLOWED A WEEK OF PREPARATION, PLANNING, REHEARSAL. AT THE END OF THAT WEEK, THE MEN INVOLVED IN THE LERVIK OPERATION EMBARKED AT A SCOTTISH PORT...

HERE COMES
NUMBER ONE
TROOP OF THE
COMMANDO.

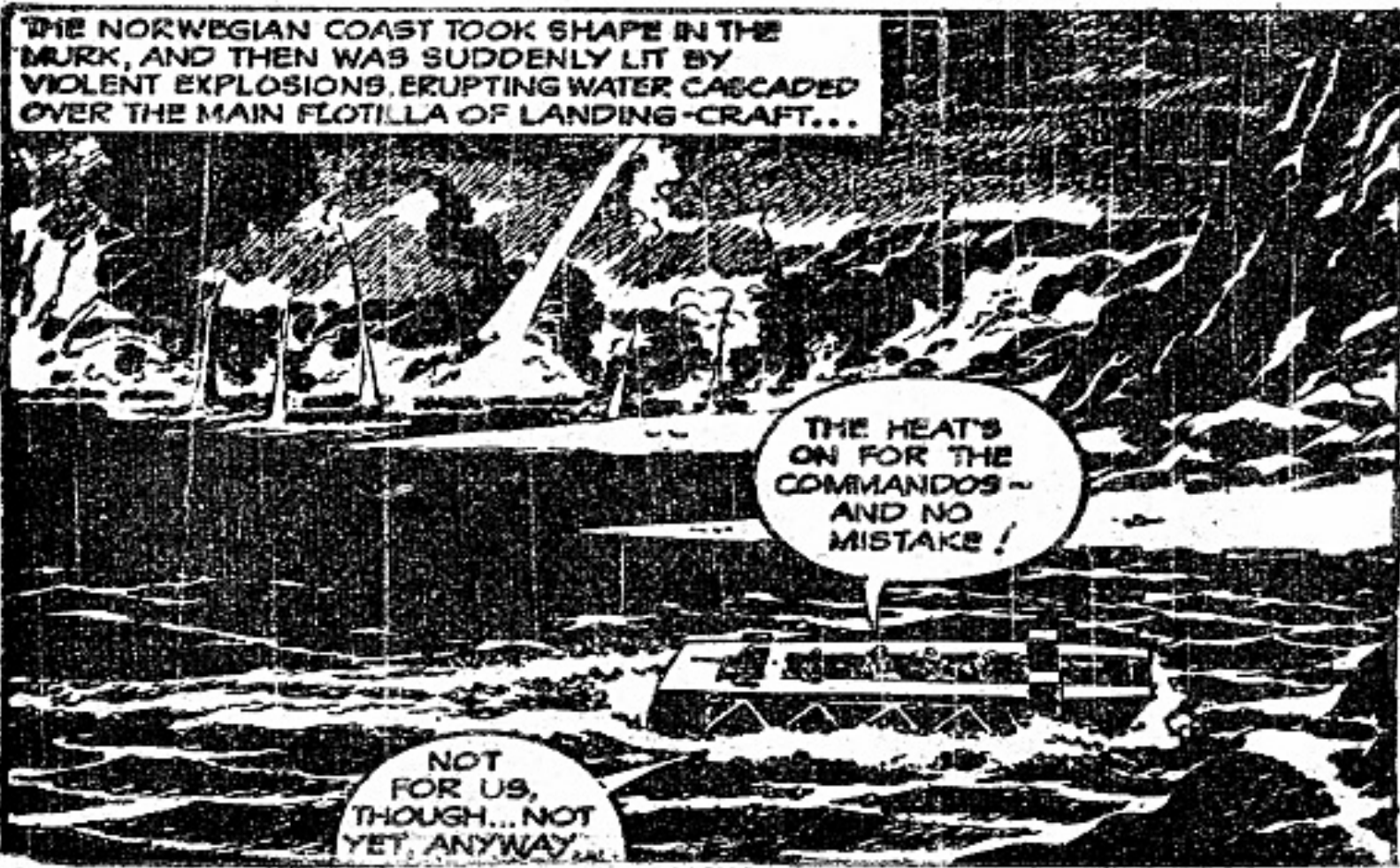
I SEE
WHAT YOU
MEANT BY
'REGIMENTAL!'
THE WAY THEY
MARCHING, YOU
THINK THEY
WERE GOING ON
GUARD-DUTY
BUCKINGHAM
PALACE.

ANOTHER 36 HOURS, AND
THREE SHIPS MOVE-TO
OFF THE COAST OF
NORWAY-A COAST
OBSCURED BY MIST
AND DARKNESS...



THE COMMANDOS WERE CARRIED SHOREWARD,
SO WERE THE SAPPERS WHO HAD BEEN
ATTACHED TO THEM...

REMEMBER,
RICKY, WE'LL
BE ON OUR OWN
AFTER WE MAKE
LANDFALL. I'M
RELYING ON YOU TO
PROTECT OUR REAR.



THE NORWEGIAN COAST TOOK SHAPE IN THE
MURK, AND THEN WAS SUDDENLY LIT BY
VIOLENT EXPLOSIONS. ERUPTING WATER CASCADED
OVER THE MAIN FLOTILLA OF LANDING-CRAFT...

THE HEAT'S
ON FOR THE
COMMANDOS -
AND NO
MISTAKE!

NOT
FOR US,
THOUGH...NOT
YET, ANYWAY...

BY PREARRANGED DESIGN, THE SAPPERS' LANDING-CRAFT HAD BEEN DIVERTED FROM THE MAIN TASK-FORCE. MIKE AND HIS GROUP WERE PUT ASHORE IN A SMALL INLET...

INTELLIGENCE WAS RIGHT. WE WERE TOLD WE COULD EXPECT TO LAND UNOPPOSED WHILE JERRY WAS CONCENTRATING ON THE COMMANDO ATTACK.



KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THE TRIGGER, ALL THE TIME!

THEY PRESSED INLAND, RICKY DROPPING BACK WITH A COUPLE OF THE MEN AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST SURPRISE ENCIRCLEMENT...

JENKINS - TAKE THE LEFT FLANK - ROBERTS, THE RIGHT! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!



CAUTIOUSLY, THEY WORKED UP OVER HIGH GROUND UNTIL THEY CAME IN SIGHT OF A LARGE HOUSE...A HOUSE THAT BROUGHT BACK A BIRMINGHAM MEMORY TO MIKE.

DID THE MAN CALLED NILSEN SPEAK THE TRUTH THAT NIGHT? WAS MY TROOP WIPED OUT JUST BECAUSE I WAS FOOLED BY SOME TRICK OF LIGHT-AND-SHADE?



GIVING THE HOUSE A WIDE BERTH, THEY MOVED ON TOWARDS THE TOWN, BUT SOON FOUND THEIR WAY BARRED...

AGAIN, INTELLIGENCE WAS RIGHT. THE APPROACH TO LERVIK'S BEEN MINED SINCE LAST APRIL - AND HOW!



SWIFTLY AND EFFICIENTLY,
THE SAPPERS BEGAN TO
BREACH THE MINEFIELD...



MOFFAT, HURRY
UP AND ASSEMBLE
THAT MINE-DETECTOR.
RICKY, STAY RIGHT
HERE WITH JENSON
AND ROBERTS, AND
KEEP ON COVERING
US FROM THE REAR.

MIKE AND HIS BAND ENTERED THE MINE-BELT. STEADILY, THEY
CLEARED A PATH THROUGH IT, WHILE SOUNDS OF BATTLE
CONTINUED TO REACH THEM FROM THE COAST...



HERE'S
ONE, I'LL
TAKE A LOOK
AND MAKE SURE
IT'S THE SAME
PATTERN AS THE
OTHERS. KEEP ON
SWEEPING WITH
THE DETECTOR.
-MOFFAT!

AT THE EDGE OF THE DEATH'S-HEAD ZONE, RICKY MULLEN AND HIS MEN PROBED THE GLOOM AROUND THEM SEARCHINGLY. SUDDENLY...



RICKY HAD BEEN TOLD TO STAY WHERE HE WAS. BUT HE RESOLVED TO INVESTIGATE, TAKING HIS TWO MEN WITH HIM...

I'LL BET IT WAS A JERRY PATROL I SPOTTED, SIR! I'LL SWEAR THERE WAS MORE 'N ONE MAN.



THEY CREPT THROUGH THE SHADOWS AND FINALLY STALKED CLOSE TO THE SUSPECTS ROBERTS HAD ESPIED...



SORRY, SIR. IN THE DARK THEY JUST LOOKED LIKE JERRIES CRAWLING ALONG ON ALL-FOURS.

MIKE'S PARTY OF SAPPERS HAD JUST COMPLETED THEIR SWEEP WHEN A HARSH, GUTTURAL VOICE YELLED OUT A COMMAND...

THAT'S THE LOT, BOYS...

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, ENGLANDERS!


AS ONE MAN, THE SAPPERS DIVED FOR COVER, THEIR RIFLES SENDING A STORM OF BULLETS AT THE GERMANS...

GOOD FOR YOU, LADS! KEEP IT UP! BUT START DRAWING BACK IN EASY STAGES! MOVE IN PAIRS, SIMPSON AND RENNICK FIRST...



AS SOON
AS WE REJOIN
MISTER MULLEN,
WE'LL MAKE A
BEE-LINE FOR
THE INLET WHERE
WE LANDED. HERE'S
HOPING WE HAVEN'T
DONE OUR STUFF
FOR NOTHING,
THAT'S ALL.

BUT IN THE REAR OF THE SAPPERS, THERE WAS NO LIEUTENANT
MULLEN. INSTEAD, THERE WAS A SQUAD OF GERMANS...



OBVIOUSLY
SOME OF THE
RAIDERS HAVE
INFILTRATED
PAST US! THEY
MUST BE DEALT
WITH!

Chapter 4. *The Big House*

MIKE AND HIS MEN HEARD SHOUTING ABOVE THEM... A POUNDING OF FEET... AND THEN, A GUTTURAL COMMAND...



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN USELESS FOR MIKE TO GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE. IT COULD ONLY HAVE RESULTED IN THE ANNIHILATION OF HIS MEN...

THE GAME'S UP, BOYS. WE HAVEN'T AN EARTHLY.



Devil's Playground

THE SAPPERS LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS. THE NAZIS CLOSED IN ON THEM AND MARCHED THEM FROM THE MINEFIELD...

HALT! NOW, ENGLANDER, MAYBE YOU ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS, JA?

NAME, RANK AND NUMBER. THAT'S ALL YOU'LL GET OUT OF ME.

A MAN CAME LOPING DOWN THE HILLSIDE AT THAT MOMENT. MIKE BARRY'S EYES SPARKED WITH ANGRY RECOGNITION.

HERR LEUTNANT, THE TRICK IS WORKING THIS TIME. THE BRITISH ARE MOVING STRAIGHT UP TO THE BIG HOUSE!

ME BARRY!



THE HAUPTMANN SENT ME TO CONTACT YOU. HE WANTS TO BE CERTAIN ALL IS WELL DOWN HERE. IN THE MEANWHILE, EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS AT THE HOUSE—FRONT WINDOWS MANNED, THE CREWS OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTS IN POSITION...



NILSEN WAS TALKING IN GERMAN, BUT MIKE WAS SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE LANGUAGE TO FOLLOW THE GIST OF WHAT HE WAS SAYING...

SO I WASN'T MISTAKEN THAT MORNING LAST APRIL, AFTER ALL. AND IF I HADN'T DONE WHAT I DID, THE WHOLE OF THE COMMANDO WOULD HAVE BEEN BUTCHERED.



WE WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE HOUSE AT ONCE, NILSEN, IN PREPARATION FOR THE AMBUSH. THE PRISONERS WILL REMAIN BY THE MINEFIELD, UNDER GUARD.

THREE NAZIS ARMED WITH SCHMEISSERS WERE LEFT IN CHARGE OF THE ENGLISHMEN.

SIT DOWN—AND PUT HANDS BEHIND HEADS! NO TRICKS! YOU UNDERSTAND?



THE CAPTIVES OBEYED. A WRONG MOVE, AND THE GERMANS WOULD BLAST THEM INTO ETERNITY WITHIN SECONDS...

THERE'S ONE THING I'D LIKE TO KNOW. WHY THE DEVIL DID MULLEN AND HIS MEN DESERT THEIR POST? WHERE THE HECK IS HE NOW?



MIKE'S GLOOMY THOUGHTS WERE SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY A SCUFFLING OF FEET AND A CLIPPED VOICE...

LET OUT SO MUCH AS A YAP, AND IT'S KAPUT FOR THE THREE OF YOU!



AFTER THE CRESTFALLEN
GERMANS WERE QUICKLY
DISARMED AND MADE
SECURE, RICKY EXPLAINED...


I CAN SEE NOW I
MADE A BLOOMER...
ONLY, THE WAY
THINGS TURNED OUT,
IT'S JUST AS WELL
WE SWANNED
OFF...

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT DON'T EVER AGAIN GO CHASING
INTO THE BLUE WITHOUT TELLING
ME THE SCORE. MEANTIME, WE'VE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE HOUSE UP THERE!


HE COULD NOT APPLY
TO HIGHER AUTHORITY
FOR GUIDANCE. HE HAD
TO COPE WITH THE
SITUATION OFF HIS OWN
BAT AND HE BELIEVED
HE KNEW A WAY TO
DO JUST THAT...

COME ON, ALL OF YOU
~FOLLOW ME!

WHEN THEY REACHED THE VICINITY OF THE HOUSE, MIKE TOLD THE OTHERS HIS PLAN. TEN MINUTES LATER, THEY MOVED OFF...



OKAY, SO WE ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO. NOW GET CRACKING! WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!



THEY SPLIT UP INTO PAIRS AND CONTINUED THE APPROACH TO THE SOMBER BUILDING WHERE DEATH CROUCHED GLINT-EYED WITH EXPECTANCY.

WHAT ABOUT THE INSTALLATIONS, SIR~ THE OIL TANKS AND SO ON?

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THEM LATER, ROBERTS.

THEY MANAGED TO REACH THE HOUSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN AND HUDDLED IN THE SHADOW OF ITS REAR WALL.

QUIET, AIN'T IT, SIR? YOU'D NEVER GUESS THE PLACE WAS STIFF WITH JERRIES.

BELIEVE ME, ROBERTS, IT IS. NOW STOP GABBING AND LET'S HAVE THAT PACK OF YOURS.



IN THE FRONT ROOMS OF THE HOUSE, THERE WERE NAZIS BY THE SQUAD, ALL READY TO OPEN FIRE...



THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE. THE GERMANS HAD BEEN ON GUARD FOR MANY HOURS AND THEY WERE TIRED AND IRRITABLE...

DAWN IS APPROACHING.

I AM FED UP WITH THIS WAITING. WHEN DOES THE ACTION BEGIN?



THERE WERE MEN GATHERED BEHIND LONG-BARRELLED EIGHTY-EIGHTS, DEEP IN THE SHADOWS OF WHAT HAD BEEN A GROUND-FLOOR BANQUETING HALL...

I CAN SEE THE ENGLANDERS IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL NOW. WE'LL LET THEM DRAW STILL NEARER, THOUGH.



THE MIST HAD LIFTED. FRESH FROM CLEARING THE BEACH OF OPPOSITION, THE COMMANDOS WERE ADVANCING IN OPEN ORDER...

I WONDER IF BARRY AND HIS BAPPERS HAVE PREPARED THE WAY FOR US THROUGH THE MINEFIELD, COLONEL?

I'M NOT COUNTING ON IT, ADJ!



GLOATINGLY, A NAZI HAUPTMANN WATCHED THEM APPROACH NEARER AND NEARER. AT LAST, HE SHRIEKED OUT THE ORDER...

FEUER!



THERE WAS A SERIES OF SHATTERING EXPLOSIONS... BUT NOT FROM THE MUZZLES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTS. INSTEAD, THEY CAME FROM THE REAR OF THE HOUSE!

FLAT ON YOUR FACES, LADS! DOWN!



Devil's Playground

THE BACK OF THAT IMPRESSIVE ABODE WAS BLOWN OUT. DEBRIS SOARED THROUGH THE AIR AND SMASHED DOWN IN A TERRIFYING RAIN...

STONE THE CROWS! WE OVERDID IT A BIT, DIDN'T WE? I'LL LAY A POUND TO A PINCH O' SALT WE AIN'T LEFT OURSELVES ENOUGH JELLY FOR THE MAIN JOB!

MAYBE NOT, JENKINS. IN WHICH CASE, WE'LL HAVE TO IMPROVISE...

SICKLY MINED, ROCKED TO ITS FOUNDATIONS, THE GREAT HOUSE BEGAN TO DISINTEGRATE. FLOORS SPLIT ASUNDER...

HIMMEL!

SUPPORTING PILLARS COLLAPSED. MASONRY AND TIMBER THUNDERED DOWN AS CEILINGS, BALUSTRADES AND ROOF CAVED-IN...



THROUGH SWIRLING SMOKE AND DUST, NAZI SURVIVORS OF THE DEBACLE SCURRIED OUT INTO THE OPEN IN WILD PANIC...



Devil's Playground

THE NAZIS WERE AS DESPERATE AS CORNERED RATS - AND A SIGHT MORE DANGEROUS...

THE
ENGLANDERS!
KILL THEM!
KILL THEM!



RIFLES AND CAPTURED SCHMEISSERS
BLENDED IN A DEVILISH TATTOO AS
THE SAPPERS PICKED OFF THE
NAZIS, SNUFFING OUT THEIR SHOW
OF RESISTANCE...

GIVE IT TO
'EM, BOYS!



Devil's Playground

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AND THE BATTLE WAS OVER, JUST AS THE SKYLINE SPROUTED THE TOUGH FIGURES OF THE COMMANDOS...



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DELANEY AND HIS ADJUTANT MADE A SWIFT INSPECTION OF THE GUTTED HOUSE...



Devil's Playground

MIKE AND HIS PARTY JOINED UP WITH THE MAIN BODY OF THE RAIDERS. THE GAP IN THE MINEFIELD WAS POINTED OUT...

STRAIGHT AS YOU CAN GO, COLONEL. YOU CAN'T MISS THE SAFETY-LANE. IT'S MARKED WITH TAPES.

THANK YOU, MAJOR BARRY. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.



THE RAIDERS PENETRATED THE MINE-BELT, THEN FANNED OUT FOR THE DESCENT ON LERVIK. ALL AT ONCE, A STORM OF LEAD CHALLENGED THEM...

THE JERRIES HAVE RALLIED. ADJ, GET WORD TO NUMBER ONE TROOP TO GIVE COVERING-FIRE FROM THE LEFT FLANK. THE REST OF THE COMMANDO WILL PUT IN A FRONTAL ASSAULT.



THE ATTACK ON LERVIK WAS SWIFTLY MOUNTED AND PRESSED HOME WITH A FEROCIOUS YET DISCIPLINED RESOLUTION THAT QUICKLY BROKE THE ENEMY'S RESISTANCE...

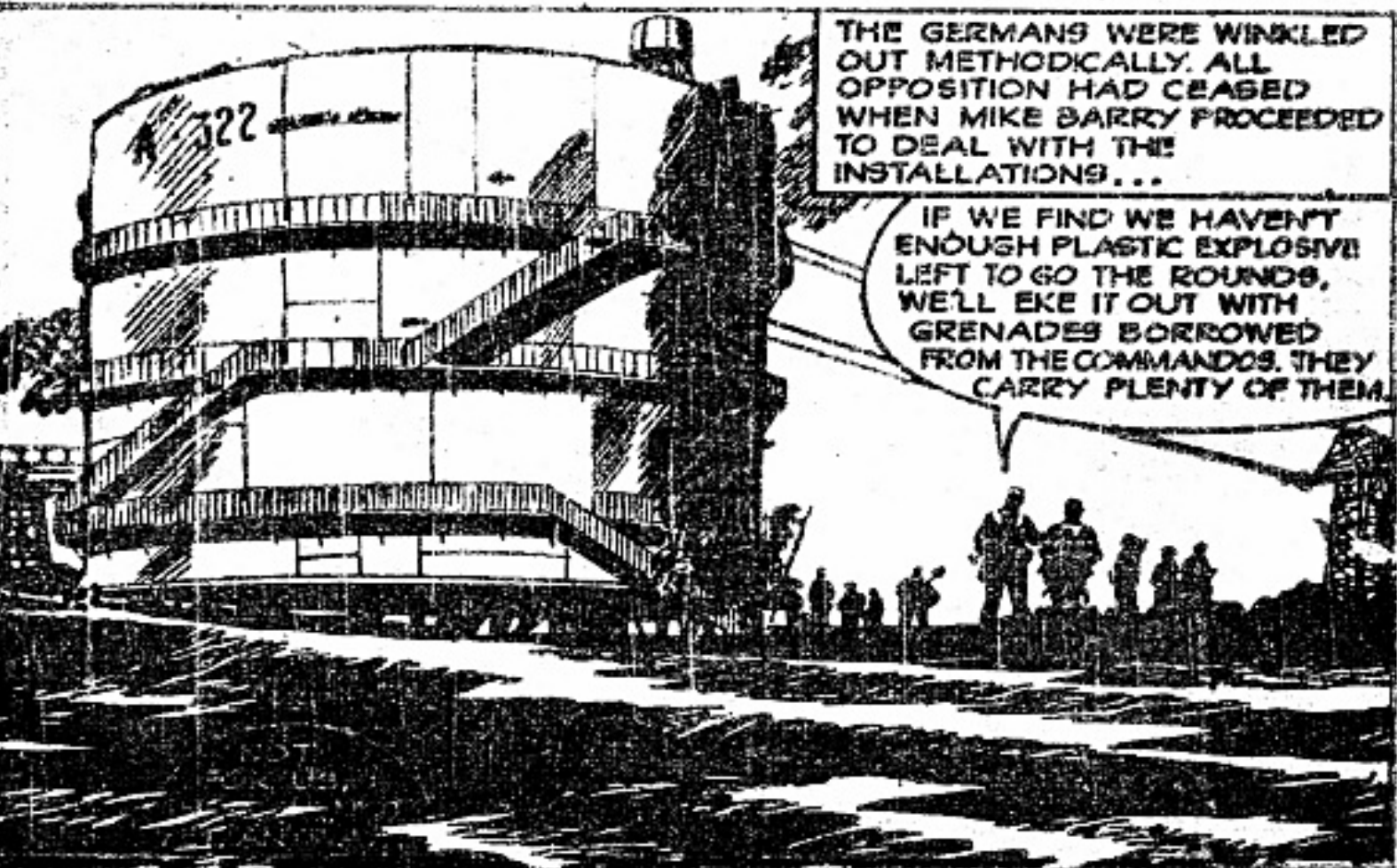
FORWARD, LADS!
I WANT THAT
TOWN SWEEP
CLEAR FROM
END TO END!



THAT'S THE
FIRST TIME I'VE
EVER HEARD
OLD BLOOD-AND-
THUNDER CALL
US 'LADS'. WHAT'S
COME OVER HIM?

THE GERMANS WERE WINKLED OUT METHODICALLY. ALL OPPOSITION HAD CEASED WHEN MIKE BARRY PROCEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE INSTALLATIONS...

IF WE FIND WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE LEFT TO GO THE ROUNDS, WE'LL EKE IT OUT WITH GRENADES BORROWED FROM THE COMMANDOS. THEY CARRY PLENTY OF THEM.



THE SAPPERS MADE SHORT WORK OF THOSE INSTALLATIONS. OIL-STORAGE TANKS WERE RIPPED APART, LICKED BY FIERCE TONGUES OF FLAME ...



A RADIO-COMMUNICATION CENTRE WAS BLASTED TO DESTRUCTION...



THAT WIRELESS STATION'S GONE TO BE BADLY MISSED BY JERRY NAVAL AND AIR FORCE UNITS BASED ON NORWAY.

IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, THE TRIUMPHANT BRITISH STARTED BACK FOR THE BEACH IN CEREMONIAL STYLE...



TROOP AFTER TROOP WENT BY. MIKE FELL IN WITH HIS SAPPERS, ACCOMPANIED BY DELANEY...

COLONEL, I'M BOUND TO SAY THIS... WHEN IT COMES TO SOLDIERING, MEN TRAINED IN THE GUARDS HAVE THAT EXTRA SOMETHING NOBODY ELSE HAS GOT.



IN THE LAST FEW HOURS, MAJOR BARRY, I'VE LEARNED THAT A MAN CAN FOLLOW ORDERS TOO SLAVISHLY. INITIATIVE CAN COUNT FOR A GREAT DEAL...

FRIENDLY NORWEGIAN CIVILIANS HAD GATHERED TO GIVE THEM A RAPTUREOUS SEND-OFF...

NO QUISLINGS AMONG THEM, THAT'S FOR SURE.



I DARE SAY NILSEN WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE DISTRICT GIR. WANDER IF HE'S SKULKING AROUND SOMEWHERE - WATCHING.

BUT LARS NILSEN WAS NOT WATCHING THE VICTORIOUS BRITISH. HE LAY IN THE RUBBLE OF A HOUSE WHICH HAD BEEN INTENDED AS A DEATH-TRAP... BUT WHICH HAD PROVED A DEATH-TRAP FOR HIM...



Printed in England by Messrs. Percy Brothers Ltd., Manchester 1, and published each month by Firstway Publications Ltd., Firstway House, Parkington Street, London, E.C.4. Advertisement Offices: Tallis House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4. Sole Agents: Australasia, Messrs. Gordon & Gotch Ltd. South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd. Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Messrs. Kingstons Ltd. WAR PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price as shown on the cover; and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade; or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

ALSO ON SALE NOW

FOR WAR THRILLS . . . ACTION . . . DRAMA . . .

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

No. 180—THE BIG GAME



His quarry was the biggest prize of all, but it was even more than the famed white hunter could handle—alone.

ALSO ON SALE NOW :—

No. 181—ROGUE LANCASTER

Next month's **FOUR** thrilling **WAR PICTURE LIBRARY** issues, on sale 4th March, are :—

No. 184—DANGER NO OBJECT **No. 186—THE BLOOD OF HEROES**
No. 185—LOST JUNGLE **No. 187—THE BOMBER BARONS**

No. 183—TOWER OF STRENGTH



The honour of friend and foe was at stake and only one man could stop the blood flowing.



SEND ONE STAMP You get back **116** DIFFERENT STAMPS *PLUS*

Just look at this exciting offer! You get giant collection of 116 all different genuine stamps. Here are some highlights: TOGO-set of 2 Yuri Gagarin Spaceman; CHAD-4 exotic animal triangles; POLYNESIA-2 South Sea beauty queens; ALBANIA-set of 4 old imperforate "Double Eagles". MONACO-giant Lourdes diamond shape. (So far every stamp is in brilliant mint condition).

Also: MALDIVES-U.N. Anniv.; new African country of RWANDI-Independence stamp with map (also mint). JAPAN-New Year. This splendid collection includes triangles, diamonds, imperfs, hard-to-get countries and many fascinating and unusual stamps and sets from all over the world. Grand total 116 all different genuine stamps.

FREE IF YOU ORDER NOW, 42 STAMP SIZE PORTRAITS OF KINGS OF ENGLAND SINCE WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

This fabulous showpiece cannot be obtained elsewhere at any price!

ALL YOURS FOR JUST 1/-

IN UNUSED STAMPS (OR POSTAL ORDER) TO INTRODUCE FAMOUS BARGAIN APPROVALS.

Approvals are stamps sent for inspection and purchase. They are the easiest and most interesting way to build a collection at a low cost—and enjoy stamp collecting. But please tell your parents you are answering this advertisement.

42 STAMP SIZE
PORTRAITS OF THE
Kings & Queens of England



**ASK FOR
LOT P18**

BROADWAY APPROVALS,

**50, DENMARK HILL,
LONDON, S.E. 5.**

**POST
COUPON
TODAY**

**LOT
P18**

I enclose 1/-. Rush me the 116 different stamps plus the 42 Portraits. Send a selection of bargain approvals for free examination.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....(Please print carefully)

Please tell your parents you are answering this advertisement.